REMARKS

The above amendments are made to conform the specification and claims to United States practice. Please enter this amendment prior to calculation of the filing fee.

Respectfully submitted,

Raymond O. Linker, Jr.
Registration No. 26,419

ALSTON & BIRD LLP
Bank of America Plaza
101 South Tryon Street, Suite 4000
Charlotte, NC 28280-4000
Tel Charlotte Office (704) 444-1000
Fax Charlotte Office (704) 444-1111
Customer No. 000826

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Sarah B. Simmons

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Version With Markings to Show Changes Made:

In the Claims:

1. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] for detecting an infection caused by a human immunodeficiency virus, [characterized in that it comprises] comprising a mixture consisting of (1) an antigenic peptide coded for by the *pol* gene of HIV-1 and comprising at most 60 amino acids, [preferably between 20 and 40 amino acids,] and (2) a mixture, called a mixotope, of convergent combinatorial peptides derived from said antigenic peptide.

2. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to Claim 1, [characterized in that] wherein said antigenic peptide corresponds to an epitope of the integrase coded for by the *pol* gene of HIV-1.

3. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to Claim 2, [characterized in that] wherein said antigenic peptide corresponds to the sequence KIQNFRVYYRDSRDPLWKGPAKLLWKGEGAVVIQDN (SEQ ID NO:1) (HIV-POL).

4. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to [any one of Claims 1 to 3, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the mixotope corresponds to a degeneration of the whole of the selected antigenic peptide.

5. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to [any one of Claims 1 to 4, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the antigenic peptide (1) and the mixotope (2) are attached to a solid support[, preferably microtitre plates].

6. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to Claim 5, [characterized in that] wherein said antigenic peptide (1) and said mixotope (2) are attached to said support sequentially.

7. (Amended) A reagent [Reagent] according to [any one of Claims 1 to 6, characterized in that] Claim 1, wherein the ratio of antigenic peptide to mixotope in the mixture is between 1:10 and 1:100.

8. (Amended) An enzyme [Enzyme] immunological method of diagnosing an HIV-1 infection, [characterized in that it] which employs a diagnostic reagent according to [any one of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1.

9. (Amended) A method [Method] according to Claim 8, [characterized in that it] which comprises:

- bringing a serum to be analysed into contact with a reagent [according to any one of Claims 1 to 7] comprising a mixture consisting of (1) an antigenic peptide coded for by the *pol* gene of HIV-1 and comprising at most 60 amino acids, and (2) a mixture, called a mixotope, of convergent combinatorial peptides derived from said antigenic peptide;
- adding anti-human Ig antibodies coupled with an enzyme; and
- qualitatively and/or quantitatively disclosing the anti-integrase antibodies which may be present in the serum to be analysed by adding the enzyme substrate.

10. (Amended) A method [Method] according to Claim 8, [characterized in that it] which comprises:

- attaching [a reagent according to any one of Claims 1 to 7] to a support [such as a microtitre plate] a reagent comprising a mixture consisting of (1) an antigenic peptide coded for by the *pol* gene of HIV-1 and comprising at most 60 amino acids, and (2) a mixture, called a mixotope, of convergent combinatorial peptides derived from said antigenic peptide;
- adding the serum to be analysed;
- detecting the attachment of the anti-integrase antibodies present in said serum by adding anti-human IgG antibodies coupled with an enzyme; and
- qualitatively and/or quantitatively disclosing said antibodies in a spectrophotometer by adding the enzyme substrate.

11. (Amended) A kit [Kit] for diagnosing an HIV-1 infection, [characterized in that it] which comprises at least one reagent according to [any one of Claims 1 to 7] Claim 1.